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LONG STEP IN RIGHT DIRECTION.

Recently the state of Ohio entered upon a commendable experiment in the matter of restricting marriage. Under the terms of a law passed at the recent session of the Ohio legislature, applicants for license to wed must, upon applying to the probate judge, answer the following questions:

Is either party a habitual drunkard?

Is either an epileptic?

Is either insane?

Is either under the influence of an intoxicating liquor or drug?

The Buckeye legislature might with equal propriety have added many more questions to the list printed above. Improper marriages are responsible for most of the misery of this world, and it is the duty of the framers of our state laws to minimize the suffering which follows the marriage of persons who should not be allowed to wed.

Applicants for government positions, and in many states for positions under state, county or city, must stand thorough examinations and prove themselves fit to administer the duties of the department in which they aspire to labor. Yet in the greatest department of life, that of wedlock, persons are permitted to promiscuously marry, and without restraint to bring children into the world who may be idiots, physical or moral deformities. Upon the question of the fitness of the applicants for marriage license the principals themselves are permitted to pass, and generally it is purely a matter of affection which prompts the decision.

The Ohio legislature has taken a long step in the right direction. The result of the operation of the law will be watched with interest by other states, and it is devoutly to be hoped the start made by Ohio will have a beneficial effect in prompting the enactment of similar laws.

THE MINISTERS' ERROR.

When the ministers and clergymen of St. Louis appointed a committee to visit the world's fair and to inspect the alleged immoralities of the show they did one of those senseless and improper things which necessarily bring the cloth into contempt. The Pike, like the Chicago Midway, ought never to have been opened, but, having been opened and having been fully described and illustrated in the newspapers, there was no necessity for clergymen to inspect it. The general impression will be that they are attracted to the place in the same way as any other spectator. Furthermore, it is a mistake for a minister to suppose that his people are infant children and that he, like a nurse, must taste everything before passing it on to them. It is his function to teach moral principles and furnish powerful motives, and it is for the church member to apply these principles in everyday life. If the pastor has to go around with him and apply the principles for him it is better that he be sent at once to an institution for the feeble-minded. All sorts of slumming and inspecting by pastors and preachers is calculated to bring them in contempt and to foster the evil which they pretend to oppose.

USES OF A NAVY.

Quite apart from the record-breaking run of the battleship Kentucky from Mederia—an achievement of which every American ought to be proud—the vessel brought to the people of the United States a message that was full of significance. Rear Admiral Robley D. Evans gave them something to think about in connection with the maintenance of a first-class navy.

As detailed by Admiral Evans, the matter of properly protecting American missionaries and traders in China is an extremely difficult and at times a delicate problem. Some of these traders are in places that are almost inaccessible—that is, places that cannot be reached except by light-draft vessels. In one instance the governor of a district objected to the admiral's sending a gunboat up a river into his domain. He said that he feared the "bad men" might fire on the boat.

The boat was sent up, just the same, and then the Celestial potentate asked the admiral to withdraw it. "I told him," says the Yankee commander, "that I would attend to all his 'bad men,' if he thought that he had not power enough to see that Americans were

protected—that I was there to take the job of protecting them off his hands if it was necessary. Well, the bad men did not do any firing. There is no problem in the far east, or anywhere else, that is too big for American warships to settle. I take the ground that we have the right to send boats wherever American trade needs protecting."

One hears nowadays in the deliberations of "peace congresses," in the outgivings of the pulpit, in the debates on naval-appropriation bills and not infrequently in the press a good deal about the vast sums of money "wasted" in the warships of the world, as if these great fighting machines were of no use except in actual war. Probably quite as many millions have been spent on saving the souls of the heathen as upon American warcraft; and if it is worth while to send American missionaries into foreign parts to convert their ungodly people, it is quite as well worth while to have battleships at hand to protect them in their work. And if a dollar's worth of foreign trade is worth going after by an American citizen, he is entitled to a warship to see that foreigners duly respect his rights.

Our navy is worth every cent it costs us if it never has to fire on an enemy.

CENSORSHIP OF "ADS."

A task more delicate than delectable is that of Judge Goodwin, who has just been made assistant attorney general for the postoffice department of the United States. A part of his job it is to decide whether or not any advertisement appearing in any of the public prints is sufficiently "objectionable" to render the publication unmailable under the law. The judge is thus constituted a sort of legal expert on obscenity, and his decisions or rulings promise to be highly interesting in not a few instances.

The modus operandi of the new "feature" of the postal service is announced—apparently from the department itself—as about like this: Postmasters throughout the country are to be instructed to forward to the postoffice department without delay any advertisement that comes to their attention and is even "suggestively obscene or indecent." All classes of "suggestive" literature, with particular reference to certain patent compounds, will come under the censorship of Judge Goodwin. He will forward a copy of every "objectionable" advertisement to the Association of American Publishers, and through that organization the proprietors of the newspaper or other publication will be informed that the advertisement cannot appear after a given date. Any newspaper disregarding the postoffice department's injunction will be held up in the postoffice where it is mailed.

There promises to be something of a contest between the fashioners of what may properly be termed advertisements of a questionable character and the censor of the department. Can the former so frame an "ad" that it will at once convey to the reader sought to be reached the exact idea intended by the advertiser and still stop short of what in Judge Goodwin's legal mind is the line of demarcation between the perfectly proper and the "suggestively" obscene? Much will depend upon that mind itself. It may possess large powers of legal analysis and still in its point of view be unrecceptive, insusceptible and unimpressible to the point of actual bluntness.

The United States is not the only country to make war on quacks and quack medicines. The German police have begun a systematic campaign against them. They estimate that in 10 years the population has increased 58 per cent, regular medical men 776 per cent and quacks 1597 per cent. There are more women quacks than men. Nearly 30 per cent of the men cited to appear at the police bureau have been in jail, and of the women 15 per cent. More than 100 samples of quack medicines were analyzed by the police, and over 80 per cent were of absolutely no medical value.

Russian authorities hold that the Whitehead torpedo, which can travel four miles, has made the three-mile limit of international law an absurdity. Forts and battleships now carry guns that help to heighten the absurdity of the old-time rule. One of the most important subjects, therefore, for the next international congress to pass upon will probably be the entire question of territorial waters in view of actual conditions of modern naval warfare.

Whether you're a republican, democrat, socialist, prohibitionist, or just a plain voter, without any political affiliations, cast your ballot against the direct primary law, and urge all your friends to do likewise. Clatsop county should not cast one vote for the bill.

With a new court house and a new city hall, there will be some additional inducement hereafter for men to run for office in Clatsop county and Astoria. Meantime, they will continue to run with no other inducement than the salary.

A Pendleton man who has made application for a pension confesses that he has had 10 wives during his life, and that No. 10 is still living with him. Medals, not pensions, should be set aside for such a man as this.

We have it authoritatively that Sir Henry Irving is to retire in 1906. Better make it 1905, Henry.

JUST FOR INSTANCE.

When a man speaks of the depth of his love, question its length.

If a man smite thee on the right cheek, give him the left.*

* flst.

When a man gets a political bee in his bonnet he thinks only of the honey and nothing of the sting. Later he discovers the business end.

For Alice Roosevelt—Ping, pong, on you!

Won't it be serious if Bryan happens to have the floor when Judge Parker finally makes up his mind to speak.

We look to see Hearst stampede the convention with those three Wyoming votes.

The democrats do not mind being shipwrecked, but they don't like to have it happen on the Brynary deep.

That Chicago preacher who states that the modern flat is responsible for race suicide has a commodious residence and is a bachelor.

From the press reports one is led to believe that the Filipinos at the St. Louis exposition are not the least civilized people on the grounds.

And because she forgot her courtesy pass, Alice Roosevelt had to pay four bits to see the fair. It must have made an awful inroad in her allowance.

The Lewis and Clark exposition will have one good effect—it is making Portland clean her streets.

Positively last appearance—the sun!

Extra! Extra!

Port Arthur, June 3.—The commandant gave a banquet to the war correspondents this afternoon. The menu consisted of stewed leather and purée of army mule. The Japs are trying to butt into the social circle, and because they can't they won't allow the Russians to import the delicacies of the season. The commandant expected to journey to St. Petersburg to be present at the birthday fete of his wife, but is unavoidably prevented. Explosives are being served on the half shell in the more fashionable homes. The Japs kindly furnish the shells. Also the explosives. A visit from General Kuroki is expected at an early date. Admiral Togo grew boisterous yesterday, and during his fit of misbehavior completely wrecked a fort at the mouth of the harbor.

LI LI KHEL.

As near as we can make out, it is the desire of the local option people to fix it so that the saloons will all be in another part of town and none of the neighbor's wives can see them take a drink.

Gray Z. Phule—No, local option does not mean that the local citizens will have an option on all the drinks. Transients will be accommodated as usual.

McCULLLEY.

TRAVIS WINS AT GOLF.

Gains the Amateur Championship of World After Great Game.

London, June 3.—Walter J. Travis and E. D. Blackwell played a final tie of 36 holes in the golf contest today. In winning it Travis becomes the amateur golf champion.

The game was fairly well matched until Blackwell lost the thirteenth hole. Thereafter he never looked like he was drawing level, and Travis finished the first round with four up. His score by strokes was 80, Blackwell taking 83.

Travis throughout the game gave the same remarkable display of putting which has gained him the reputation of being the finest exponent in the world of the short game. He was never in the slightest danger throughout the tournament.

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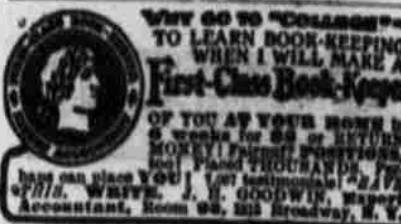
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